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*The National Security Working Group (NSWG) provides wide-spectrum coverage of issues like the Iranian threat, missile defense, sequestration, New START, events in Syria and more. We look forward to providing this newsletter to RSC members and welcome your input throughout the 113th Congress.*

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**Responsible Iranian nuclear agreement is possible, but not likely (Rep. Franks)**

The popular tendency of late is to embrace Iranian "openness" and to reward their supposed willingness to negotiate. But we know too much to fall for this effort by Iran to buy the alarmingly small amount of time they need to put the finishing touches on a functional nuclear weapons capability. We have seen IAEA declarations go unanswered by this regime and know that past diplomatic efforts, including ten rounds of negotiation since 2011, have borne no fruit. Decades have passed without a single concession from the world's leading sponsor of terror.

Let us not forget that in 2005 we saw North Korea, another rogue nation, petition for "talks" about ending their nuclear weapons program, and demanding US concessions. How did they hold up their end of that bargain? They have since conducted three flagrant nuclear weapons tests. This, in spite of the fact that North Korea has been sanctioned into virtual starvation for now a half century.

As this Administration talks about making a deal with Iran, there is a legitimate risk that we could see an agreement reached with Iran that represents a grave national security threat to the United States. Consider that Rouhani promised, during the Iranian

elections, that he would work to ease sanctions against Iran within the first 100 days of his term. And the Obama Administration, having trumpeted the "historic" nature of Iran's willingness to come to the negotiating table, may well find themselves tempted to make a deal for the sake of claiming a diplomatic victory -- even a hollow and dangerous one.

But the stakes are far too high for the United States to make a bad deal with Iran.

Last night I introduced the *U.S.-Iran Nuclear Negotiations Act* to ensure the U.S. has all options truly on the table during negotiations regarding Iran's nuclear weapons program, because negotiations must be backed by a credible military threat. But equally important are the outlines of a responsible nuclear agreement indicated in this bill. We took the lead in affirming what steps Iran could take to successfully and responsibly cooperate with the international community.

We hope a peaceful negotiated settlement can be reached, and soon. But if Iran proves to be a predictable entity as they have for the last several decades, we should have legislation in place that provides credible force to defend our national security objectives.

NSWG Contact: Ari Zimmerman, [Ari.Zimmerman@mail.house.gov](mailto:Ari.Zimmerman@mail.house.gov), 6-5536

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*Each NSWG Item reflects the position and view of the authoring office. Questions or comments regarding the NSWG can be directed to: Jackie Rivera, [Jackie.Rivera@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jackie.Rivera@mail.house.gov) or 6-0678*